

Wi-Fi: How Safe is that “Free” Public Wi-Fi?

TOPIC: ONLINE SAFETY AND SECURITY

GRADES: 6-8, 9-12

LESSON DURATION: 45-60 MINUTES

SOFT SKILLS: COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, PROBLEM SOLVING

Introduction:

- An important aspect of cybersecurity is personal safety and education on the ways in which we operate daily. This lesson plan helps students understand the basic dangers of public Wi-Fi and teaches them how to discriminate between unsafe and safer Wi-Fi options.

Learning Outcome:

- Students will present the basic safety issues of public Wi-Fi.
- Students will determine the safety of different Wi-Fi settings through a small group exercise.

Materials:

- [Explanation sheet with basic information](#)
- [Scenarios for group work/analysis](#)
- FTC OnGuardOnline: [Video for review of information](#) (Public Wi-Fi networks)

Activities:

1. The teacher should explain that today, students will learn about safety on Wi-Fi.
2. The teacher can ask for a basic definition of Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi is a popular wireless network that uses radio waves to allow access to wireless high-speed internet.
3. Ask students to provide examples of areas in which Wi-Fi is available. (home, school, Starbucks, hotel, airport, stores, church, etc.).
4. Next, ask students if they have ever considered the safety of connecting to public Wi-Fi...allow students to respond and explain.
5. Hand out the tip sheet. Read through the background information as a class. Allow students to ask questions and/or explain different ideas that come to mind.
6. Once students appear to have a grasp of the content knowledge, place them with a partner or small group.
7. Hand each group the Analysis worksheet. Allow ample time to complete the activity.
8. The teacher can collect the activity for a grade or can use it as an in-class discussion piece.
9. Wrap it up with questions and a recap summary of Wi-Fi safety. The video from the FTC OnGuardOnline website could be used to review information. The video (entitled Public Wi-Fi Networks) is available at: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0038-onguardonline>

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10. The teacher may consider developing a short quiz to serve as an assessment tool following the activity and discussion.

Note: In a technology class, this lesson could naturally be followed by an introductory discussion of “Man in the Middle” attacks.

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